

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents
From: Board Office
Subject: Final Report on Legislative Session
Date: June 5, 2000

Recommended Action:

Receive the final report on the 2000 Legislative Session.

Executive Summary:

The General Assembly completed its 2000 session on April 26, 2000. The deadline for the Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the General Assembly was May 26, 2000. Governor Vilsack has taken action on all the bills from the 2000 Legislative Session.

On May 10, 2000, the Governor signed the Education Appropriations bill (HF 2549) on the University of Northern Iowa campus. The bill appropriates \$695.4 million to the Regent institutions, which is \$2.7 million less than the original FY 2000 appropriations. The Governor vetoed two items in this bill relating to the Regent institutions.

One item directed the Cooperative Extension Service at Iowa State University to conduct a study on duplication of educational materials, seminars, and assistance between the Extension Service and the Department of Human Services. The Governor noted that the legislature had not provided additional resources for this task and that the study would unnecessarily divert resources from the important services provided by the Extension Service.

The other item directed the University of Iowa to develop and maintain a database regarding treatment options of neonatal brachial plexus injury and treatment. The Governor noted that University officials have indicated their willingness to continue discussions with interested parties to provide communication with concerned families regarding this matter.

The Governor signed the Infrastructure bill (SF 2453) on May 11, 2000. This bill appropriates capital funds for the Regent institutions, which includes \$16.2 million in FY 2001, \$15.6 million in FY 2002, and \$11.4 million in FY 2003, for capital projects as detailed in the following table:

<u>Item</u>	<u>FY 2001</u>	<u>FY 2002</u>	<u>FY 2003</u>	<u>Total</u>
SUI Biology Building	\$4,400,000	\$7,300,000	\$3,000,000	\$14,700,000
ISU Gilman Hall - Chemistry	8,500,000	2,500,000	-	11,000,000
ISU Planning - College of Business	300,000	-	-	300,000
UNI McCollum Science Hall	2,700,000	5,800,000	8,400,000	16,900,000
ISD Replacement of water system	250,000	-	-	250,000
Total	\$16,150,000	\$15,600,000	\$11,400,000	\$43,150,000

Other appropriations bills signed by the Governor with funding for the Regent institutions include the Economic Development Appropriations bill (SF 2428) with \$7.5 million of direct appropriations for FY 2001, which are \$313,259 less than the original FY 2000 appropriations; the Administration and Regulation Appropriations bill (HF 2545), which modifies the payment mechanism for workers' compensation claims and appropriates \$1.9 million to the Regents for these claims; and the Agricultural Appropriations bill (SF 2430), which contains FY 2001 allocations to Iowa State University.

The Salary Appropriations bill (SF 2450) appropriates \$42.2 million to state agencies with the Regent allocation determined to be \$18.2 million for funding Regent salary increases. To fully fund the state salary policy increase of 4% at the Regent institutions, exclusive of health insurance increases, funding from state appropriations would have to total \$27.4 million for FY 2001.

The Technology Appropriations bill (SF 2433) includes a \$1 million allocation to the University of Northern Iowa for a 21st century learning initiative. Funding for this initiative depends upon FY 2000 reversions from state departments (these will not be determined until August). Technology projects are to be funded in priority order as listed in the bill. The UNI technology initiative is listed after the first \$7.5 million is allocated to the state's general fund to balance the state's FY 2001 budget and after \$1.5 million is allocated to the Department of Education for purposes of making technology available to students of accredited nonpublic schools.

This 21st century learning initiative was part of the Governor's recommendation for the proposed Information Technology Department. The bill language requires that UNI consult with the Division of Information Technology Services of the Department of General Services and the Department of Education in developing this initiative.


Pamela M. Elliott

Approved: 
Frank J. Stork